

Weather Corner



Clear skies, light winds and warmer temps

**The forecast**  
**Tonight** — Clear with a low around 36. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.  
**Friday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 79. South wind around 5 mph becoming east.  
**Friday night** — Mostly clear with a low near 42. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast.  
**Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 79. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Saturday night** — Mostly clear with a low around 45.  
**Sunday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 72.  
**Sunday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 44.  
**Monday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 72.  
**Temperatures**  
Wednesday’s high, 67  
Low this morning, 35  
Records for this date, 92 in 1967, 26 in 1979  
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
May’s precipitation, 0.32  
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119.  
Current temperatures are available by calling (785) 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Mail carriers set food drive Saturday

Colby Post Office’s letter carriers will be out in full force Saturday delivering mail and collecting non-perishable food items for the Thomas County Genesis food bank. As in previous years, the collection is part of the National Association of Letter Carriers food drive. Anyone who would like to donate canned goods and other non-perishable items are encouraged to leave them by their mailbox during the normal mail times Saturday.

City-wide garage sale planned

The Colby High Plains Lions Club in conjunction with the Highway 25 Association is sponsoring a city-wide garage sale, Saturday, June 10, said Hazel Estes, Lions Club member. This is the second year for this event, she said, and like last year, any service organizations, individuals or groups interested in coordinating a garage sale that week-

end are encouraged to call the Lions Club. In turn, the Lions Club will advertise all the garage sales on a map showing locations and make those available to the public prior to the weekend. In addition to the garage sales in this area, other sales will be going on from Interstate-70 at Coby to Interstate-80 at Sutherland, Neb.

“To be included on the garage sale list for June 10, we need to know as soon as possible,” she said. For questions or to signup, call either Estes at (785) 460-0557; Mary Hurtt, (785) 443-1886; or Francis Britton, (785) 460-6426 (evenings).

Free sports physicals in August

The Family Center for Health Care will be offering free athletic physicals the second week of August for those middle school and high school students unable to do so this week at the other two clinics. More information will appear closer to the date.

Provider Appreciation Day Friday

Smart Start NW Kansas encourages everyone to show their local child care providers how much they appreciate them Friday on *Provider Appreciation Day*. With all the contributions child care professionals make, officials hope children and families will remember the accomplishments and dedication of those special people.

Family Group meets Saturday

The Northwest Kansas Military Family Readiness Group will meet at 10 a.m., Saturday, at the Colby National Guard Armory, 470 S. Range Ave., Colby. Anyone who has a family member or friend in any branch of the armed forces, activated or not, or anyone who would like to be involved in the readiness group is encouraged to attend.

For questions, call Melanie Fortin, 460-2995, or Lisa Varney, 890-6939.

Scrapbooking fun



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Rachel Myers sorted through her box of pictures Saturday during Heartland Christian School’s Crop Till You Drop event. Heartland offered space, materials and food for those to work on their scrapbook.

Kansas State Fair officials wrestle with increasing energy costs

MANHATTAN (AP) — A 118 percent increase in energy costs prompted the Kansas State Fair board to vote to explore other possible energy sources to offset the expense.

The vote came after board members met in executive session with Westar Energy officials Wednesday to discuss a possible deal to lower the rate increase the utility imposed earlier this year.

Fair Manager Denny Stoecklein said the Westar officials gave no indication they would approve such a deal.

The fair paid \$179,343 for energy during a 12-month period that ended in March. Stoecklein estimated that the new rates will cause that bill to increase to more than \$391,000.

The fair already paid \$30,000 more for electricity in the past two months, he said.

“This is something that isn’t going to go away,” Stoecklein said. “This is a huge issue.”

At a retreat Tuesday, board mem-

bers discussed a renewable energy plan from Missouri-based Cromwell and Ramsey Environmental. The options presented included installing two 50-kilowatt wind turbines, solar thermal heat for the administration building and installing 10, 1.8-kilowatt wind turbines.

The two 50-kilowatt wind turbines each cost \$196,985 and produce more than 300,000-kilowatt hours of electricity a year. That’s about 10 percent of the fair’s annual energy use, with a payback in about 11 years.

Hutchinson board member Brad Rayl said Tuesday that he supported some type of renewable energy, anything from biodiesel to wind.

He said he also thought the fair should have an area dedicated to educating visitors about renewable

energy.

The increased energy costs come while nonfair revenues are up \$75,000 from the same period last year, but expenses also increased by \$200,000, Stoecklein said.

And with the 2005 fair attendance one of the lowest since 1990, the fair paid \$30,000 for the Jurassic Journey dinosaur exhibit and \$20,000 to rent the grandstand stage.

Stoecklein said he hopes grandstand entertainment ticket sales, which begin Saturday, increase revenues another \$100,000 by the end of the fiscal year in June.

If the budget isn’t met, Stoecklein said money would have to be kept out of the capital improvement fund, which is typically matched by the state.

Thank You!

The Robert (Bob) Weishaar family would like to thank our relatives and friends for the flowers, cards, memorials, hugs and support since the passing of our husband and father. We would also like to thank Dr. Slavens, Andy Rose P.A., the clinic staff, the hospital staff, Father Dana D. Clark and Jeannie Solko for the special care they gave to him. God Bless all of you.

Jeanette Weishaar and family

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Orchestra to perform

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will have its finale performance at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 20, in the Colby High School auditorium.

The orchestra will feature many talented young musicians from the northwest Kansas area, said Sharon Kriss, orchestra member and publicity. Emily Cox will perform a French horn concerto by Strauss, she said, and Reed Shoaff will perform a trumpet concerto by Hummel. Andrew Vrbas and Stanton Nelson will each perform a movement of Concerto in A minor for violin.

The Double Violin Concerto will be performed by student orchestra members Maleen Michel, Haley Kistler, Andrew Vrbas, and Mary Beth Myers.

The Pride of the Prairie Orches-

tra is directed by Juliann Groom, Atwood High School band director.

Persons participating in the May concert include: Donna Engel, Kathy Spencer, Andrew Vrbas, Maleen Michel, Haley Kistler, Kevin Seymour, Mary Beth Myers, Andrew Vrbas, Jan Wolf, David Younger, Bob Nicholas, Sharon Kriss, Leona Dickman, Anne Schalker, Sharon Steele, Renea Reasoner, Eileen Jones, John Tole, Holli Linman, Randi Donley, Reed Shoaff, Leanna Larmer, Denise Shoff, Bruce Frahm, Bob Kelly, Alex Kleinsorge, Mary Shoaff, and Andrew Salvador.

The orchestra is supported by the Friends of the Orchestra and admission is with Friends of the Orchestra membership or tickets available at the door.

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